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Women's Christian Association, but that of the Young Men's Christian Association is passed over in silence. In short, the book is devoted almost wholly to missionary and other distinctively religious movements; but besides describing medical missions abroad and rescue missions at home, it contains an account of the work of Florence Nightingale and of the Red Cross. This is as far as the author himself gets away from strictly evangelistic effort; but he prints a somewhat extended account of the George Junior Republic from the pen of Mr. Delavan L. Pierson, and quotes a description of a Scotch orphan colony.

Dr. Pierson condemns extravagance both in individuals and in churches, citing as a terrible example the case of a church which spends three thousand dollars a year on the choir and one hundred and fifty dollars a year on foreign missions. He estimates the contributions of Protestant church members at $\frac{1}{1600}$ of their wealth, and recommends that the principle of progressive taxation be applied to their giving.

M. W.

The United States in the Orient: The Nature of the Economic Problem. By CHARLES A. CONANT. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1900. 8vo, pp. x + 237.

THIS book is a compilation of seven magazine articles published between September 1898 and August 1900. As a whole it seems intended by the author to furnish an economic basis for the expansion policy of the United States. Like most compilations the book lacks in logical continuity. Searching through the various chapters, however, one finds that it is in the main a discussion of two definite topics: (1) Surplus capital, its industrial effects and the possible disposition of it; and (2) the industrial equipment necessary to secure efficiency in an industrial struggle for empire.

The first of these topics is most important in this connection. Briefly epitomized Mr. Conant's argument is as follows: In advanced industrial nations, including the United States, savings have outrun the field for profitable investment. The proof of this assertion is found in the enormous increase of securities, the fall in the rate of interest, and the eagerness of capitalists to embark their savings in doubtful enterprises. This over-supply of capital, through the low rate of interest it induces, causes great suffering to those who

are dependent on the income from saving and leads to increased government expenditures and paternalistic enterprises. Furthermore this capitalistic glut by inducing unwise speculation, duplication of the means of production and overproduction of consumption goods, is the underlying cause of those profound industrial disturbances which are periodically characteristic of modern industrial society. It is then of the utmost importance to obtain relief from oversavings or surplus capital. Three important solutions of the problem are possible: (1) the socialistic solution, (2) the creation of new demands at home, and (3) the equipment and development of backward countries. The first of these solutions, Mr. Conant believes, will not soon be accepted. The second is inadequate, since the advanced countries are practically fully equipped with machinery of production, and the means for meeting new demands have been taken out of current savings within the last few years without producing any marked effect upon their amount. The third solution is, then, the only practicable one. Therefore, if we are to avoid "the needless duplication of means of production and communication, with the glut of unconsumed products, the convulsions followed by trade stagnation, and the steady declining return upon investments," nay, "if the entire fabric of the present economic order is not to be shaken by a social revolution" an outlet for surplus savings must be found in the development of those countries which have not yet felt the pulse of modern progress. Thus "the inexorable progress of economic tendencies has made expansion the inevitable policy of states which would survive in the future."

No adequate criticism of the economic position thus outlined is possible within the limits of this review. A few important points only can be noted in passing. If it be true that the field for enterprise be exhausted so that future investments of accumulated savings and labor will produce no adequate social income, then all must agree that such an outlet for surplus savings as Mr. Conant contemplates would be beneficial. But it is easy to show that so far as the United States is concerned the field for profitable investment is not exhausted. Moreover, the mere fall in the rate of interest does not necessarily indicate a tendency toward exhaustion of the field for investment. Before such a conclusion can be drawn it must be shown that this fall is not due to increased security, increased wages, and above all to increased returns to business management. The statement that savings have out-run the field for profitable investment evidently then means merely that

share of social income going to capitalists is not considered by them adequate. The demand, then, for new fields for investment of capital outside the United States is virtually a demand that the legitimate competition between capitalists be lessened or that interest be raised at the expense of profits and wages, ultimately at the expense of wages alone. In this connection it is a significant fact that Mr. Conant discusses this topic throughout from the standpoint of the capitalist, the interests of labor being relegated to the preface. It must be admitted, of course, that the low interest rate works hardship to some who are dependent on accumulated savings for their income, but since this low rate puts a premium upon activity and since it also allows active men to enter upon productive undertakings before impossible, it is hardly an evil upon which expansionist demands can well be founded. More important is Mr. Conant's charge that surplus capital is the underlying cause of crises and industrial depression. If this charge were true, it might be well to purchase relief by aiding capitalists at the expense of laborers and entrepreneurs. But such a charge must be supported by much more proof than is brought forward by Mr. Conant before it can be accepted. Not only must the phenomena of industrial crises and depressions be clearly explained on the basis of surplus capital, but it must be shown that no other cause or set of causes equally well explains these industrial disturbances. Here it may be well to note that wild speculation, duplication of means of production, and overproduction of consumption goods—the main causes according to Mr. Conant of crises and depressions—occur chiefly in times of prosperity when capital is relatively scarce. But if we were to grant Mr. Conant's argument to this point, it would still be debatable whether the remedy which he offers is either necessary or adequate. His demand for a remedy rests on the postulate that oversaving will not be corrected by low rates of interest, but if we still believe that there is a connection between the rate of interest and the extent of savings, we must deny the need for a remedy and must also look upon Mr. Conant's as a measure tending to aggravate the evil of which he complains. The effectiveness of his remedy consists in its ability to raise the rate of interest, but will not this increase in the rate of interest tend still more to diminish consumption and increase savings?

The second topic of Mr. Conant's book, a consideration of the industrial equipment necessary to insure effectiveness in a struggle for empire, need not detain us. It is sufficient to say that it is based upon

an assumption, drawn partly from the discussion of the first topic and partly from an assumed knowledge of manifest destiny, that an imperialistic struggle between the advanced nations is inevitable. In this discussion Mr. Conant compares the efficiency of the democratic organization with the autocratic Russian organization and shows wherein we might profit by Russian adaptations.

As a whole Mr. Conant's work is a very popular presentation of a very important subject, and though it lacks in logical continuity and there is too little attempt at proof of important assertions, it is still interesting and suggestive.

The book is attractively bound, printed in large type upon good paper, and is especially free from typographical errors.

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